

Child Trafficking By Prachi

What is Child Trafficking?

Child trafficking, a modern form of slavery, is defined as recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receiving of children from their homes and families, by means of threat or the use of force or other forms of persuasion, abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power, or of a position of vulnerability for the purpose of exploitation to make money.

The existence of child trafficking is the result of a combination of different factors including poverty, political instability, family financial obligations, lack of access to education, unemployment, the weakness of child protection systems, basic needs not being covered, the migration dream and gender discrimination.

At least 2 million children are trafficked annually for child labour and sexual exploitation.

It is a violation of their rights, their wellbeing and denies them the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Each day, more children are trafficked into prostitution, forced labour, child marriage and other slavery-like conditions. Each day sees the growth of skills and experience of traffickers and those who purchase trafficked persons.

What has your country, other countries/the UN done about this problem already? Has it worked?

In realization of the growing problems of child trafficking, the UK government has put in place a law to tackle the problem and criminalize the practice. Child traffickers – those who transport children so they can exploit them – can go to jail for up to 14 years for committing this crime.

The UK has a good record in tackling human trafficking. That is something we can build on -

A new strategy for tackling human trafficking has four key aims:

1. International action to stop trafficking happening in the first place;
2. A stronger border at home to stop victims being brought into the UK;
3. Tougher law enforcement action to tackle the criminal gangs that orchestrate the crime; and
4. Improved identification and care for the victims of trafficking.

In China and Thailand there has been significant work on trafficking awareness and prevention with the International Organization for Migration, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other organizations. In Malawi, the Salvation Army has run a project to improve knowledge of and access to rights for children who have been trafficked or are vulnerable to being trafficked

UNICEF cooperates with governments, NGOs, and international organizations to stop abuse and violence towards children and to protect vulnerable young people through widespread advocacy of legislation, monitoring systems and rehabilitation and recovery programs. It also works with communities to address harmful practices and

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empower children through educational, life-skills and prevention programs. Progress is being made: for example, data show that the average age for marriage is steadily rising in Bangladesh, Guinea, and Nepal—countries where child wedlock is prevalent.

What could be done?

Government and law enforcement agencies cannot tackle human trafficking alone. The voluntary division, through its knowledge and its devotion to dealing with the effects of trafficking is a essential partner.

The private sector also has a role to play. Traffickers and their enablers exploit authorized businesses in order to run their trade. Businesses have an important role to play in raising the risks to traffickers and making it more difficult for them to exploit victims

Victims of trafficking are some of the hardest to reach and most vulnerable victims. Hidden away, deceived, exploited and frightened – they need to be formally identified and provided with a tailored response that fits their vulnerability and helps us to bring their abusers to justice.

Better intelligence gathering and sharing is central to the disruption of trafficking. Increase our understanding of how and why people become victims of trafficking
Educate potential victims in source countries about the dangers of trafficking
Strengthen our border controls and policing to prevent traffickers entering the country
Refusing to issue visas to suspected traffickers and their victims could disrupt trafficking before it reaches the UK.

- **Raise awareness**—inform the world of this crime and mobilize people to stop it
- **Strengthen prevention**—warn vulnerable groups and alleviate the factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking, such as poverty, underdevelopment and lack of opportunity
- **Reduce demand**—attack the problem at its source by lowering incentives to trade and decreasing demand for the products and services of exploited people
- **Support and protect victims**—ensure housing, counseling, medical, psychological and material assistance, keeping in mind the special needs of women and children and people at risk, such as those in refugee camps and conflict zones
- **Improve law enforcement**—strengthen information exchange between law enforcement agencies on international trafficking routes and traffickers' profiles in order to dismantle criminal groups, leading to the conviction of traffickers
- **Implement international commitments**—ensure that international agreements are turned into national laws and practice by assisting countries in need and improving the monitoring of compliance
- **Enrich knowledge**—deepen world understanding of the scope and nature of human trafficking through more data collection and analysis, joint research initiatives and the creation of an evidence-based report on global trafficking trends
- **Strengthen partnerships**—build up regional and thematic networks involving civil society, inter-governmental organizations and the private sector
- **Create a special purpose fund**—to attract and leverage resources into funding projects around the world committed to ending human trafficking
- **Create an informal contact group**—to give like-minded Member States ownership of the process and create long-term momentum.